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WHEN Jesus said, "Be opened," he not only healed the deaf mute's infirmities but opened his heart to an understanding of God's mercy. We are in need of understanding so that the words we hear and speak will increase our faith in the Father.



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Maryland St. & Ellice Ave
Winnipeg

Rev. A. B. Midland, Pastor (122 Borebank St.
(Phone 404 329
Mr. Leslie Hall, Organist and Choirmaster

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude	
Processional Hymn #361	
The Service	page 7
Introit (to be read responsively)	140
Gloria Patri, Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis	9
Collect	140
Epistle	140
The Hallelujahs	
Anthem	
Gospel	141
Apostles' Creed	12
Hymn #375	
Sermon	
Offertory and Offering	14
General Prayer	
Lord's Prayer	
Benediction	
Closing Hymn #134	
Organ Postlude after Silent Prayer	

Visitors are most welcome to our Services
and are invited to sign the guest register
in the vestibule of the Church.

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ANTHEM

LOVELY APPEAR

by GOUNOD

Lovely appear over the mountains The
feet of them that preach and bring good news

of peace.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL meets tomorrow evening 8:15 at the Lindsten home, 279 Ashland Ave.

WOMEN'S GUILD meets Tuesday evening, 8:30 at the Mrs. Alfred Buzza home, 1086 Downing St.

LADIES AUXILIARY meets next Friday, 2:30 P.M. at Church. Hostesses are Mmes. A. Gauer and G. Heinicke Jr.

SENIOR CHOIR MEETS for practice next Friday, 8:00 P.M. at Church.

NEXT SUNDAY, by authorization of the Church Council, our congregation will give a special offering for Lutheran World Action. The regular monthly bulletin will go to all our people this week and will include special Lutheran World Action offering envelopes. Let us deny ourselves something in order that we might give for the physical and spiritual welfare of our very needy brethren in the faith. It is sincerely hoped that every envelope will come back to the Church with some offering, whatever you can afford to give.

Lutheran World Action is a world program of the Lutheran Church. It is made necessary because of the disintegration and suffering of our brethren in various parts of the world insofar as family and church life is concerned.

TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY we shall celebrate the regular Fall Communion. We hope for a large attendance at the Altar Table.

Baptism Brings Hope

Most of the average mother's waking hours are spent keeping things clean. Monday, the laundry . . . Tuesday, the first floor . . . Wednesday, the upstairs . . . and so on. The rest of us too put in a lot of time on cleanliness. Hands must be washed before eating and baths must be taken. Almost continually we are cleansing away the signs of toil or play, the stains which we accumulate in everyday living.

But there are more serious stains which we cannot wash away. These are the marks on our lives caused by selfishness, greed, and pride. All the water and soap in the world cannot cleanse us from them.

More vital than our need for physical cleanliness is our need for spiritual washing. From the time we are born we carry the stains of humanity. The things we ought not to do appear attractive to us, while we tend to ignore those things we should do. As members of the human race we cannot help but be disobedient to God's will.

What hope is there for us since we are unable to free ourselves from sin? The answer is water. We must be washed as God commands, believing the promises connected with it. This is baptism—the cleansing of our souls.

In the early days of Christianity people did not understand that baptism once performed need never be repeated. Small wonder, then, that converts sought to postpone baptism to the last day of



their lives so that all their accumulated sins might be forgiven. But baptism is not like that. Its effect is continuous through all our lives. It establishes a new relationship between ourselves and God, in which he becomes our Father. Under this bond we may live continually in his grace and mercy, receiving the forgiveness of our sins as long as we sincerely desire to be his children.

We can never come to God in faith by our own strength. He must give us strength to come. This he does even before we have any idea of him. That is why we baptize children before they can possibly understand the meaning of the act. Since God bids children to come into his Kingdom he is able also to establish a covenant with them as they grow gradually in knowledge and faith.

The most precious knowledge any of us Christians can have is the knowledge that in baptism we have become God's children. He reached out to receive us before we knew anything of the world about us. From the moment of our baptism we have been with him. Unless we rebel and seek to destroy this precious relationship he will continue to keep us as his children all our days and bring us into everlasting life.